(b) whether Government has received any suggestion from people's representatives or any organizations;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) Government's response on those suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) As and when complaints are brought to the notice of the Government, the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations are asked to conduct suitable enquiry and initiate corrective actions to avoid recurrence of such incidents.

(b) to (d) Recently, proposal to introduce biscuits in place of hot cooked meal under the Mid-day Meal Scheme was received. After careful consideration, the Government has not supported the proposal because the replacement of the Mid-day Meal Programme through supply of biscuits would not be in the nutritional interest of children, since it does not fulfil the nutritional norms, dietary requirement and satiety of children.

Appointment of Punjabi teachers

1734. SHRI TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how many Punjabi teachers have been appointed in different States under the scheme of promotion of Minority Languages in the country;

(b) what is the progress of appointment of 100 Punjabi teachers, as sanctioned by the Ministry during 2007 in Himachal Pradesh; and

(c) whether other States, especially Haryana, Delhi, J&K have also applied for grant under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) There is no scheme by the name of 'Promotion of Minority Languages'. However, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of appointment of Language teachers implemented by the Ministry of Human Resources Development (MHRD), during the year 20-2008, only one State *viz.* Himachal Pradesh had submitted a proposal for appointment of Punjabi teachers. The said proposal sought assistance for appointment of 100 Punjabi and 100 Urdu Teachers, under the Scheme. The proposal was approved by the MHRD and the sanction dated 23.10.2007 was conveyed to the Education Secretary, Government of Himachal Pradesh for appointment of 100 Punjabi and 100 Urdu teachers under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of appointment of Language teachers.

(b) As regards the progress of appointment of 100 Punjabi teachers by the Government of Himachal Pradesh, information is being collected from the Government Himachal Pradesh and would be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) During the year 2007-08, the Government of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, and Mizoram have been sanctioned funds for appointment of Language teachers under the scheme.